UAW Local 72 Collection / Kenosha County Historical Society

FIGHTING TIMES

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82 Worker Collapses — The Line Never Stops

On October 10th, Milosevic Ranisav asked for a nurses pass at approximately 9:20 AM. According to a witness in the area, the foreman Don Panzlon told him, "I don't have the people to get you off." (A statement Panzlon has conveniently forgotten.) A little while later Milosevic once again asked to go to the nurse.

Brother Milosevic has only recently come from Yugoslavia so his English is not very good. But he certainly knows how to ask for a first aid pass when he is sick. At approximately 10:30 he collapsed on the floor of the pit in which he was working. His face was contorted and pale.

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victory to the dynamatic strikers!

The hard fought strike of machinists and office workers at Eaton's Dynamatic is a call for labor and all workers in this area to take a stand for justice. It is a battle between a multi-million dollar corporation and the basic rights of union people to dignity and a decent life.

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827

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The people in the pit yelled for the foreman to shut the line off. Instead the line kept running as Milosevic lay on the floor of the pit. People were forced to step over his body as screws and debris fell on his body from the line above. The people kept yelling for the boss to shut off the line. Even after the nurse arrived Milosevic continued to lie on the floor of the pit. The people demanded that the steward take a stand, but shamefully the line kept running.

Foreman Panzlon was so damn production crazy that he kept the line running for a half hour until the rescue squad arrived. He might not have shut down them if the guard hadn't ordered him to do so. At that time Milosevic's body was finally lifted out of the pit and he was taken away in an ambulance.

AMC has once again demonstrated their total disregard for human rights and life. Brother Milosevic is new in this country. The company figures they can treat him like a second class DP and nobody will raise a stink. The foreman Panzlon has even gone so far as to deny that he was ever asked for a nurses pass.

It is up to every Local 72 member to protest this kind of inhuman treatment. Unfortunately it goes on around us all the time. The union in 827 can not close their eyes to this atrocity. We are all human beings and not animals.

EDITORS NOTE; Since this incident the steward elections in 827 led to some changes in the union leadership. Hopefully this will be trouble for AMC.

AMC WORKERS SUPPORT DYNAMATIC STRIKERS!!

Eaton's most recent contract proposal to the office union includes: No general wage increase, the company's right to add or subtract economic benefits at any time, an open shop, and "possible" seniority for layoffs and recalls.

Eaton is out to break the union. The company has been running SCAB trucks through the picket lines and at least 7 strikers have been hit.

Support has started to be built for the strike. Two weekends ago, a busload of strikers from Kenosha and supporters from Milwaukee marched in front of Eaton corporate headquarters in Cleveland. They were joined by 4 other unions and together walked with their picket signs through the downtown. Another office workers union in Connecticut sent a check for a $1000 and promised to send another if needed. At Cutler Hammer (owned by Eaton) hundreds of office workers went to work wearing buttons supporting the strike.

At AMC collections for donations have been held at Gate 17 and 15 at Main Plant and Gate 205 at Lakefront. Hundreds of Local 72 members bought buttons that read "Workers Unite - Support the Dynamatics Strike." We should continue to show every kind of support we can from wearing the buttons to stopping over and walking on the picket line for awhile after work.

Remember the old union slogan: "AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

DEAR FIGHTING TIMES:

There are some departments where foremen working on the line is still a big problem. It's up to us to see that union jobs are done by union people. Some union brothers and sisters say "it's good for them to do a little work" But if supervisors want to help build Spirits and Concords, then let them join the union and pay dues as we do.

Foremen working takes jobs from our brothers and sisters, and if they "have to" work to keep the production schedules up, that means that they don't have enough line people, repairmen and utility people. So AMC should hire more unemployed.

Remember that if you write up a foreman for working, you can get an hours pay. That sure beats humping on overtime Saturday mornings.

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Return of the Scrooge

AMC Denies Comp.

Tis the season for the return of AMC's leading candidate for Scrooge--Martin Pilger, the manager of personel services in the front office. As we reported last year, Martin ushered in the '78 X-mas season by denying sick benefits and workers comp. to a mother of 2 who was off work for a pulled muscle caused by her job.

Not to be outdone by last years award winning performance, Martin is welcoming the '79 X-mas season by starting earlier and being cheaper. On Sept. 18 a woman in 838 fell off the end of a wooden ramp because the gradually sloped access had been removed. This left a sharp drop at the end of the ramp.

After crashing to the ground she lay on the concrete floor in pain. The foreman and her fellow workers helped her onto her feet. The nurse recommended she see her own doctor.

Her leg was badly bruised causing the doctor to keep her off work for 13 days. Upon returning she contacted Pilger's office regarding the $400 in Workers Comp and payment for 5 doctor bills she was owed.

This woman has worked for AMC for 21 years. She has turned

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837—GIVING A FAIR SHARE?

DEAR FIGHTING TIMES

Now that it's time for United Fund again we will all give our fair share - right? WRONG - not in dept. 837. United Fund money will be a lot lower in this dept. this year until the Supt. can see his way clear to being a little fairer in picking his candidates.

He hand-picked a new hirer who doesn't know but a handful - but then you should see the way she looks! He also told another one to lose 20 pounds and she could also be Miss United Fund!

One 28 year old woman was told she was too old to campaign although she knows everyone in the dept. The new Miss United Fund just happens to be 40 But I guess you are never too old to play games!

What's wrong with drawing names out of a hat -just to be fair about the whole thing. Or why not have some men help? The reason for United Fund is to raise money - right? Wouldn't it seem natural that a woman would give more money to a man and visa-versa?!

We would like to say one last thing - we have nothing against the Supt.'s choices but they just happen to be stuck in the middle.

Editor's Note - We want to make sure that it is clear to everyone that this particular incident occured in one dept. on 2nd shift. After catching hell from the people the Superintendent has reconciled his follies and chosen seniority employees.

SCROOGE CONT. FROM P.4

more than a few dollars profit for the corporation during her years of service. But Scrooge told her, "We're denying you Workers Comp. because we can't be sure of the severity of the injury." Even the company nurse gasped in disbelief. What does Pilger want us to do --die on the line before he'll admit an injury is job related.

REMEMBER

Any injury on the job or in the parking lots is covered by Workers Comp. at the rate of $218 a week, beginning on the first day you are absent. If the company denies you Workers Comp., offical forms for filing can be picked up at the Union Hall. Local 72 has also hired 2 lawyers to argue our cases. Call in Racine Charles Swanson 637-9781 in Milwaukee Resnik 271-1225

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GM & Ford Contract-A SELLOUT

After the hot air cleared from around Doug Fraser the facts are out on the Big 3 contract. Little or nothing was gained for autoworkers and too much was lost :

Whats in the contract

1. 14 cents of the COLA will be taken off the pay check of active workers to cover the increase in retirees' benefits.

2. The promised cost-of-living for retirees' doesn't exist. According to the Wall Street Journal, "This is a traditional settlement on pensions with slight variations. If they had put a true cost-of living adjustment in, that would have been a breakthrough."

3. All new hires will receive from 45 cents to 60 cents an hour below scale for 90 days.

4. New hires will receive only 75% of their sickness and accident benefits for the first year.

5. Three of the promised Paid Personal Holidays (PPH days) aren't even scheduled to kick in 'til after the contract's expiration date 3 years from now.

6. The union signed a "letter of understanding" that commits the UAW to "tough measures" for cracking down on absenteeism.

Int'l & Company LOVE AFFAIR

Guess whose side Doug Fraser and the International are playing for - certainly not ours. With GM's billions the Int'l should have used this year's contract to break with the UAW's outdated 3% yearly raise that doesn't come close to the Gov't. figure of 13 1/2 % inflation. Probably, the only gain in the contract was an improved COLA formula the third year. Instead of one cent for every .03 raise in inflation Big 3 workers will receive one cent for every .02 raise.

Reports came in from all over the country that UAW members were disgusted with the sellout. For example, workers at GM's largest parts manufacturing plant in Trenton, NJ voted the agreement down and skilled tradesmen picketed the Local Union Hall.

In Detroit, mass meetings were called by the Independent Skilled Trades Council (a Detroit based caucus of militant UAW tradesmen) were attended by hundreds of GM and Ford workers. Vote NO was the word in many UAW locals.

Nevertheless, the Int'l "claimed" over 70% acceptance. Who's kidding who? Doug Fraser, we're surely not crying over the fact that 20-30% of the so-called Inrernational leadership is being forced to retire. in the next few years because they're over 60. SO --TAKE A HIKE DOUG!!!

Trades Win at Ford

The only real victory in the auto workers contract was won by the skilled trades at Ford. After years of organizing to elect militant fighters into leadership of the union at the huge Ford River Rouge Complex in Detroit the skilled trades got a return on their money.

Ford was so worried that the skilled trades would go ahead and strike they offered them a special deal. Ford skilled trades won the right to strike over grievances instead of being forced into arbitration.

The local right to strike over grievances is something we at AMC have defended over the years. It is a victory at Ford that the skilled trades have now won the right.

Chrysler RIPOFF

Even worse than the disgraceful settlement at Ford and GM is the proposed Chrysler settlement. The International agreed to major economic concessions totalling millions of dollars of losses to UAW members. The badly needed dollars that are being stolen out of workers' pockets the first and second year add up to a 3% labor cost for Chrysler.

Just to show how far in bed Doug Fraser is with the corporations - President of Chrysler, Iaccoca has proposed putting Fraser on the Board of Directors at next month's meeting.

"Sure happy Fraser only gave up part of our wages to Chrysler."

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2838::UNION BACKS AMC DOWN

After months of having health & safety grievances, among others, fall on the company's deaf ears, the steward body in 2838 realized that something had to be done. The people in the department had had enough. They were more than willing to do whatever was necessary to win the grievances.

The company was given a week in the beginning of October to correct the problems and didn't. There seemed to be no other alternative for the people in 2838 than to be as uncooperative in setting up Saturday overtime. The company was certainly being uncooperative about settling the grievances.

When people in 838 at main plant heard of the unofficial overtime boycott they joined with their sister department in refusing the overtime. In some sections the number of people willing to go to Lakefront dropped to zero. For the first time in awhile the two departments cooperated and stood together.

The grievances in 2838: lack of ventilation in the new Ziebart area where a strong toxic solvent, Chlorothene, is used; liftgate racks falling off an incline nearly hitting a woman below; bathrooms being continually filthy; machines promised by ARA not put in

On Friday the Executive Board requested that the 2838 steward body survey for the overtime with the understanding that a 5 board member team would be in the following week to deal with all the problems. After meeting with the company, timetables were given on the resolving of the remainder of the grievances. Most of them have been lived up to proving PEOPLE POWER CAN WIN!

WARNING DANGEROUS CHEMICAL

Chlorothene is a toxic solvent used at AMC. When workers in the new Ziebart area at Lakefront began using it no one really paid much attention. After reading the warning label on the barrel, the steward in the area began investigating. As it turns out it is extremely harmful to the kidneys. Upon contact with the skin, it is soaked up by the body like gasoline on a rag. Any amount absorbed poses a greater threat than that caused by breathing the levels that are generally found in areas where the solvent is used. Not realizing any of this, people at Lakefront had been washing their hands with the solvent at the end of the day.

838*COMPANY DISCRIMINATION PROVED

An important grievance against AMC racism was recently won at the Board step. The company was forced to pay a Black union brother back pay for discriminatorily denying him the right to bump a relief job in 838.

After the last production cutback in March a man was bumped out of 808. He landed in 838 on nights. He shift preferenced to days and the man he "should" have bumped was on relief.

Even though he had previously bounced from job to job and done them all without problems, the company refused to place him on relief. Instead they held the relief job open for 2 weeks until they filled it with a man of their choice. At that time and at present their are no Blacks on relief on days in 838. A clear case of company prejudice.

The company has been forced to pay a small sum to the man who was diccriminated against to settle this grievance. The grievance victory is a step forward, but not the solution.

Come next contract in Sept. AMC has to be forced to post all future relief jobs. That way strict seniority will determine who gets the job--NOT COMPANY FAVORITISM OR RACIAL PREJUDICE.

DEAR FIGHTING TIMES

Fire in Bldg. 40 an eyewitness account

On Oct. 4 an extremely dangerous situation occured in Building 40. Peoples lives were at stake. The following is an eyewitness account by a steward from the 2nd floor.

"On Oct. 4, 1979 American Motors had a fire in Dept 1836. At 5:10 pm 3 fire trucks and one rescue squad were called. On the west end of Building 40 there is paint mix and on the northwest end is the dip tank--both are highly flammable.

In 1837 and 1838 the company continued to run the lines, even though the fire and smoke were very bad. On their own employees began to walk off the job, searching for a way out of the building. Some people ran to the north door of 1837. The smoke was so thick on the steps that it drove them back to the 2nd floor.

Finally the company couldn't run the lines so the told the employees to leave the building. When people got downstairs, the northwest entrance on 30th Ave and 52nd St. (Gate 17) was locked!

I feel that anytime there is a fire in the building it should be evacuated.

Hope the enclosed $2 will help cover printing cost.

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PARKING LOTS IMPROVEMENTS WON

4000 SIGN PETITION

After months and years of thefts and vandalism running wild in the parking lots, AMC has been forced to agree to take some positive steps to correct the problem. Last month thousands of people in the shop let it be known that enough is enough. In the recent Board Step grievance meetings the company was forced to agree to added security precautions.

Over the past months grievance after grievance was filed demanding financial compensation for ripoffs in the lots. 5 people in Building 40 losing their batteries in one night was typical of how bad the problem was.

A petition protesting the situation was circulated all over the plant and 4,000 people signed. In many departments the stewards were active in passing the petition. By gathering the names of so many people in the shop on the petition many stewards and Chief stewards let the Board know just how fired up the people were on this issue.

In the end the voice of the people was heard. The Board forced the company to agree to some added security precautions that should help cut down the number of ripoffs.

820

DEAR FIGHTING TIMES;

Recently I witnessed a ripoff in 820. For years the same man had done a job inserting pieces into the motor. After he got off the job, a lady bid for it. Even though she was a good worker before, she just could not do the job. She even got coded for a couple of weeks because the job screwed her hand up.

IE and union time study came in on her job but she kept getting written up. Pretty soon she was up for time off. The company got real down on her. One time someone was visiting her and Massey told him to get away.

Finally she went to the office with her Board Member for a time off penalty for poor workmanship and missed operations. But she came out smiling. Even though she had never put in a transfer the company agreed to take her off her job and ship her to 827!

Maybe that saved her, but the job still stinks. No one bid on it and they use floaters to keep it running.

Tired of Bad Jobs

SCABS OF THE MONTH

1st prize-838

"I WISH ALL OF MY PEOPLE WERE PROBIES--I'D TAKE CARE OF THEM"

Without a close second this supervisor on nights in 838 has earned the title of "scab of the month." Not too long ago every time he walked by a certain woman he would intentionally brush against her rear. She asked him not to do it and his reply was, "I can brush against your 80 year old ass anytime I want--all I have to do is excuse myself!" When hauled into the office he claimed he had acidently brushed her. In that case the division head told him to walk on the other side of the car in the future.

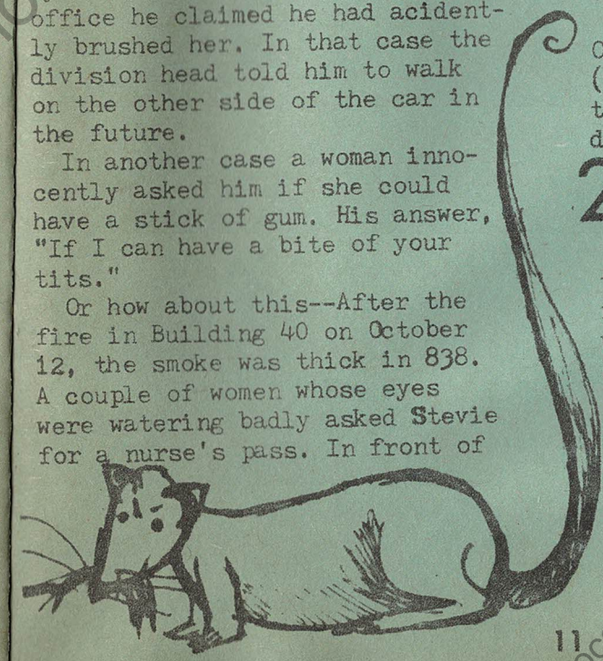
In another case a woman innocently asked him if she could have a stick of gum. His answer, "If I can have a bite of your tits."

Or how about this--After the fire in Building 40 on October 12, the smoke was thick in 838. A couple of women whose eyes were watering badly asked Stevie for a nurse's pass. In front of 3 Stewards he told them, "You're nothing but a bunch of pussies." That remark earned him his 3rd trip to the office. This guy is the original "Male chauvanist pig."

Stevie Wonder also figures he really knows how to handle the union because he comes from the Labor Relations Dept. at a local hospital. His favorite anti-union trick is to completely ignore the steward and walk the other way when approached. A couple of stewards fixed him good one night when 7 of them trailed him wherever he went.

Remember Stevie-SCABS GET OLD AND FALL OFF!

(please excuse the language in this article, they are all direct quotes from management.)



2nd prize-836

Mickey Haights a foreman in the drilling area of 836 was nominated for his performance when he told a Black woman that he would find a more "degrading" job for her when she refused to sweep the floor. His bid for glory ended quickly when the Chief steward threw the broom into the repair hole.

The issue was settled when the Division head agreed that people in 836 build cars and maintenance sweeps the floor.

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2000 protest in Zion- Stop Nukes!

"The truth is that Zion is part of a totally unacceptable energy program... Not surprisingly, Carter's energy program is designed with the multi-national corporation, not the people, in mind. And it is the same corporations...that are charging us a buck a gallon for gasoline and 90 cents a gallon for fuel oil."

Local 72 Union Steward speaking at Sept. 29 Zion Energy Fair/March Against Zion

Workers from AMC joined with workers from Case, A.O. Smith, Briggs & Stratton, Rexnord and other factories in a contingent during the recent march against Zion nuclear power plant. The energy fair and demonstration attracted nearly 2000 people.

This was only one of dozens of local demonstrations against Nuke plants across the country in the last few months. In the largest demonstration in the U.S. to date a quarter of a million people turned out at an anti-nuclear demonstration in New York.

The unbuilt Seabrook plant has been the focal point of years of anti-nuke struggle. After frustrated, unsuccessful attempts of going through the red tape to stop the plant, well over a thousand people recently attempted to occupy the construction site. They were driven back by local and State police and the National Guard.

2836

Petition Against Rascist Graffitti

On October 9, 17 people in 2836 filed a mass grievance against theracist graffitti written on the walls of all the bathrooms in the department.

There are slurs on just about every racial group with about 95% of it anti-Black. The people who signed the petition were 8 Blacks, 8 Whites and 1 Mexican.

The grievance called for the company to repaint the walls and for the union to stand against this type of racism.

One of the slogans on the wall says, "All men should be free, let nigger slaves do the work." The fact is, as we all work side by side busting out Black, White and Brown asses, we are all slaves to the white shirt. Anything that divides us like this gaffitti weakens our unity in the union.

So far some Board members have toured the area and there has been a promise to repaint the bathrooms.

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